

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An identification and security system for displaying ownership identification information on a display of an electronic device, comprising:
an information mechanism that displays the ownership
5 identification information on the display of the electronic device when selected; and

a security module that provides protected access to data stored on the electronic device when the information mechanism is activated.

10 2. The identification and security system of claim 1, further comprising a communications device coupled to a network for accessing a global database.

15 3. The identification and security system of claim 2, wherein the global database stores, retrieves and updates ownership identification information for each registered user of the identification and security system.

20 4. The identification and security system of claim 3, wherein the global database stores a unique serial number of the electronic device along with the ownership identification information so that each owner's identification information is associated with each unique serial number.

25 5. The identification and security system of claim 4, wherein the global database includes a tracer to locate a lost or stolen electronic device if the lost or stolen device communicates with an affiliated Internet service provider.

6. The identification and security system of claim 1, wherein the ownership identification information includes at least one of instructions for returning the electronic device or information relating to the owner.

5 7. The identification and security system of claim 6, wherein the ownership identification information relating to the owner includes at least one of the owner's name, contact telephone number, return address or Internet World Wide Web site.

10 8. The identification and security system of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a portable computer.

9. The identification and security system of claim 1, wherein the electronic device is a personal data assistant.

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10. A method for providing ownership identification information of lost electronic devices, comprising:

displaying the ownership identification information on the display of the electronic device when selecting an information mechanism;

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providing protected access to data stored on the electronic device when the information mechanism is activated; and

storing, retrieving and updating the ownership identification information on a global database.

25 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the global database stores a unique serial number of the electronic device along with ownership identification information so that each owner's identification information is associated with each unique serial number.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising tracing lost or stolen electronic device if the lost or stolen device communicates with an affiliated Internet service provider.

5 13. The method of claim 10, wherein the ownership identification information includes at least one of instructions for returning the electronic device or information relating to the owner.

10 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the information relating to the owner includes at least one of the owner's name, contact telephone number, return address or Internet World Wide Web site.

15 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic device is a portable computer.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the electronic device is a personal data assistant.

20 17. An identification and security system for displaying ownership identification information on a display of an electronic device, comprising an information button easily accessible for providing the ownership identification information on the display of the electronic device when selected.

25 18. The identification and security system of claim 17, further comprising a security module that provides protected access to data stored on the electronic device when the information button is activated and a communications device coupled to a network for accessing a global database, wherein the global database stores, retrieves and updates

ownership identification information for each registered user of the identification and security system.

19. The identification and security system of claim 18, wherein the
5 global database stores a unique serial number of the electronic device along with the ownership identification information so that each owner's identification information is associated with each unique serial number.

20. The identification and security system of claim 19, wherein
10 the global database includes a tracer to locate a lost or stolen electronic device if the lost or stolen device communicates with an affiliated Internet service provider.